

Message Text

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TAGS: USINJC, TGEN, IN

SUBJ: US-INDO SUBCOMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

REF: NEW DELHI 6975

1. EMBASSY SCIENCE OFFICERS MET WITH DR R.D. DESHPANDE, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS, DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DST), ON WEDNESDAY MAY 18 TO DISCUSS PREPARATIONS FOR THE S&T SUBCOMMISSION MEETING TO TAKE PLACE JUNE 16-17 IN WASHINGTON. THE GOI HAS AGREED TO THESE DATES, REFTEL NEW DELHI 6975, AND HAVE INFORMED THEIR EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON.

2. DESHPANDE SAID THE INDIAN DELEGATION WILL MOST LIKELY BE LED BY DR A RAMACHANDRAN, SECRETARY DST, AND HAVE FOUR OR FIVE ADDITIONAL MEMBERS WHICH WILL INCLUDE DR C. GOPALAN, DIRECTOR GENERAL ICMR, DR R.C. BHUMBLA, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, DR H.N. SHARAN, BHEL, DR. Y. NAYUDAMMA, CSIR, AND DESHPANDE. THESE NAMES HAVE NOT YET BEEN CLEARED BY MEA AND MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. ACCORDING TO DESHPANDE DR NAG CHAUDHURI WILL NOT BE THE INDIAN CO-CHAIRMAN THIS YEAR AND WILL NOT BE ATTENDING

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THE MEETING. DR DESHPANDE INDICATED THAT NAG CHAUDHURI IS OVER EXTENDED IN HIS EXTRA CURRICULAR DUTIES AND WILL NOW BE CONCENTRATING ON BEING VICE CHANCELLOR OF NEHRU UNIVERSITY.

3. THE INDIAN TEAM WILL BE PRIMARILY FOCUSED TOWARD AGRICULTURE, HEALTH, AND ENERGY, BUT WILL BE INTERESTED

IN INTRODUCING NEW AREAS FOR COOPERATION SUCH AS REMOTE SENSING. OTHER MAJOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA TO BE PROPOSED BY THE INDIANS WILL BE PROCEDURES FOR FUNDING OF NEW JOINT PROJECTS AND GOI CLEARANCE MECHANISMS FOR NEW PROJECTS. DESHPANDE SAID DST HAS PROPOSED TO THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT THAT ALL JOINT PROJECTS BE FINALLY CLEARED THROUGH DST BY A NATIONAL SCREENING COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF DST.

4. A DRAFT AGENDA WILL BE COMPLETED BY DST EARLY NEXT WEEK AND TRANSMITTED THROUGH THE EMBASSY TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR REVIEW AND US INPUT. THE TIMING FOR APPROVAL OF FINAL AGENDA BY BOTH SIDES SHOULD BE JUNE 3.

WE SUGGEST THAT US AGENCIES BE POLLED FOR THEIR VIEWS SINCE US SCIENCE AGENCY INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES MENTIONED A NUMBER OF NEW RESEARCH AREAS FOR POSSIBLE COOPERATION TO EMBASSY SCIATT DURING RECENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON.

5. ON A RELATED SUBJECT, DESHPANDE SAID THE INDIAN AGRICULTURE TEAM HAS BEEN CLEARED FOR A VISIT TO THE US BEGINNING AROUND JUNE 14 FOR ABOUT 14 DAYS. DR. ANANDAKRISHNAN, SCIATT INDIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH USDA CONCERNING THIS VISIT. EMBASSY PREPARING DETAILED CABLE ON INDIAN AGRICULTURAL TEAM VISIT.

SCHNEIDER

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